



2005 SOUTH REGION RANGER REPORT



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SOUTH REGION RANGER REPORT

*Department of Conservation
and Recreation
Division of Urban Parks
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The Division of Urban Parks and Recreation South region rangers provide visitor services and public safety for 11 major sites south of Boston, including the 2005 addition of Chestnut Hill Reservation:



- Blue Hills Reservation (7000 acres)
- Quincy Quarries (112 acres)
- Stony Brook Reservation (475 acres)
- Cutler Park (600 acres)
- Hammond Pond (64 acres)
- Chestnut Hill Reservation (138 acres)
- Hemlock Gorge (23 acres)
- Wilson Mountain (200 acres)
- Brook Farm Historic Site (179 acres)
- Hancock Woods (50 acres)
- Elm Bank Reservation (182 acres)

The aforementioned sites total well over 8800 acres. The South Region also provides coverage at a number of additional sites including Lost Pond, Havey Beach, Redwing Bay and Village Falls.

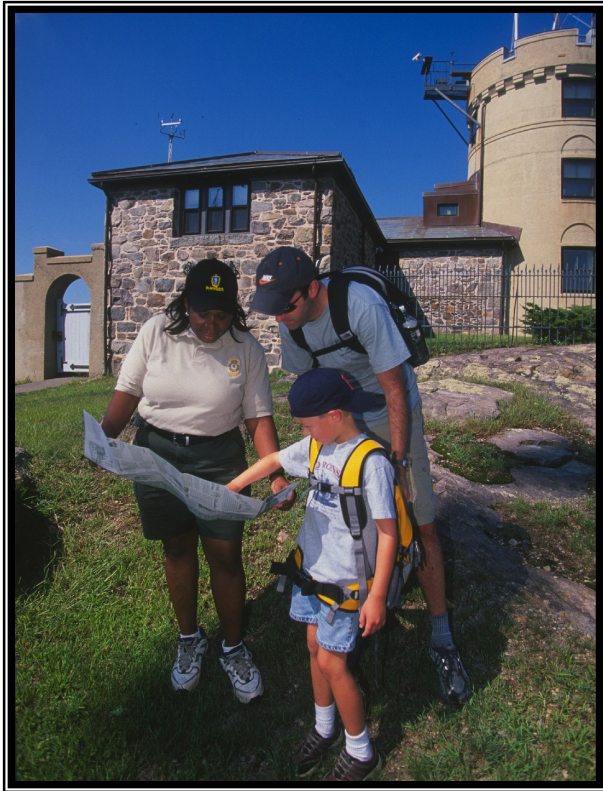
Two thousand and five was a busy year with a number of new challenges in the South Region.

New initiatives and special assignments for 2005 include:

- Snow and severe weather emergency response during the winter of 2005 due to a season of record snowfall.
- Transfer of Mounted Unit operations and reassignment of staff to South Region.
- Visitor management issues at Blue Hills Ski Area during busy winter season.
- Traffic coverage at Elm Bank Reservation in Wellesley seven days a week from 7 am to 8:30 pm from May 6 to June 16 due to Eliot bridge reconstruction. Seven additional seasonal rangers hired in May to facilitate staffing demands.
- Cooperative efforts with State Police Mounted Unit during the summer season, including natural restoration initiative and increased patrols and educational efforts in heavily impacted areas of the reservation.
- Opening and staffing of West District office at Brainard Street in Stony Brook and increased coverage in the West District
- Cooperative efforts with the State Police Community Action Teams in the West District to deal with the homeless issue at Chestnut Hill Reservation.
- Summer project to reblaze and resign marked trails in the South Region.
- Three day search in October for missing person in the Blue Hills in conjunction with State police and DCR Search and Rescue Teams.

In the winter of 2005 two full time rangers were transferred to the South Region from the former Mounted Unit. Currently, five full time rangers are assigned to provide safety, informational and educational services to these sites. Ranger responsibilities include a wide range of services including:

- Educational and recreational programming
- Safety and vandalism patrols
- Rules education and citations
- Emergency response
- Media relations and publicity
- Display and brochure development
- Field and archival research
- Informal interpretation
- Park signage
- Search and rescue
- Gate and building security
- Volunteer coordination
- Office administration
- Litter clean-up and snow removal
- Visitor Correspondence
- Trail work assistance



EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING

South Region rangers provide free educational and recreational programming year-round. Rangers lead hikes and walks on both Saturday and Sunday from January through December. Programs vary each week with topics ranging from birding to colonial history, insect study to the history of the Civilian Conservation Corp. Additionally rangers guide the Blue Hills Adult Walking Club on weekly social and recreational walks throughout the reservation. Rangers also provide programs on weekdays by request for schools, community and camp groups. The South Region also sponsors annual special events throughout the year attracting thousands of visitors. Often the entire staff of the South Region may assist with these programs, combining skills in a team effort.

2005 SPECIAL EVENTS

- First Day Hikes
- Earth Day Celebration
- Maple Sugar Days
- Weather Observatory Open House
- Blue Hills Mountain Bike Day
- Houghton's Pond Fish Festival
- Spring Egg Hunt
- National Trails Day
- Dog Sled Fun Run
- Quincy Quarries ClimbFest





2005 SOUTH REGION PROGRAMMING STATISTICS

<u>Program Type</u>	<u>Number of Programs</u>	<u>Children and Adults</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Average/Program</u>
General	93	227 and 1332	1559	18
School Groups	2	89 and 11	100	50
Community/ Camps	8	70 and 170	240	34
Special Events	11	1820 and 2660	4480	407
Totals	114*	2206 and 4173	6379	56

* 8 programs and 1 special event were cancelled due to the severe weather

During 2005 South Region rangers (and staff) offered 114 public programs for 6,379 children and adults.



PARK PATROLS

South Region rangers provide hundreds of hours of park patrols year-round to provide routine visitor information and security. Rangers are continually monitoring sites and responding to public safety incidents. The following ranger log records notable incidents and staff activity during 2005 written in chronological order. Entries are initialed by the ranger filing the report.

An incident is a public safety or security issue requiring rapid response.

Incidents in the South Region requiring a rapid response include:

- Searches for lost hikers
- Emergency assistance
- First aid
- Lost dogs
- Lock and gate repair
- Vandalism
- Illegal swimming
- Illicit sexual activity
- Motorized vehicles on trails
- Illegal dumping
- Wildlife rescue or disposal
- Parking violations
- Disabled vehicle assistance
- Off-trail use